

## **Report for Great Shelford Parish Council**

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council – November 2020**

#### **1. Planning**

##### *Local plan*

The Great Cambridge Planning Service has published initial findings on key topics for the joint Local Plan, all available online. This includes insights into the amount of development that may be required in future and expert assessments about the pros and cons of different approaches to planning for the future.

The findings are being published to inform the Local Plan advisory group (which includes representatives from South Cambs District Council) and for transparency with the public. They are interim findings and still at the strategic level rather than dealing with specifics. On Monday we were advised that the Planning Service would be sending information to all Parish Councils and District Councillors about when in the Local Plan development process there will be consultation on specific sites.

##### *Government planning white paper response*

The Council has now submitted its response to the government Planning White paper proposing radical changes to the planning system. You can read it in full here:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=11457>

##### *Pre-application Service*

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched a new Pre-application service with revised charges. This is a single, aligned pre-application charging scheme across the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council areas. Applicants are encouraged to use this optional service for advice at the outset of a project. This can help simplify and speed up the progress of getting planning permission. The service will offer a pick and mix menu to tailor the level of detail and advice to each applicant, which will then be reflected in the charge applied.

More information on this is available at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/aligned-planning-service-pre-application-charges-take-effect-across-greater-cambridge/>

#### **2. Covid 19**

##### *Community support*

South Cambs Communities Team is supporting the local volunteer groups that operated during the first lockdown. The South Cambs Coronavirus page <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/> will be updated as we get more information.

#### *Covid Community Grant*

South Cambs have released details of a new grant of between £100 and £400 available for community groups supporting people with Covid-related issues. The Council has written to Parish Councils, community groups and lead volunteers inviting them to apply for the grants.

#### *Self-isolation payments*

All the information you need to apply for a government grant should you officially be required to self-isolate and consequently experience a loss of income is on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website. There are a number of eligibility checks such as what benefits you are in receipt of, but once you have made your application the process should be quick and you should receive your payment within 3 days. More than one person per household may apply and you can apply again if you are required to self-isolate again. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/self-isolation-payment/>

### **3. Business support**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is offering a series of workshops that will provide a chance for local businesses to engage with Council services. The webinars are free to join – the next is on January 21st. Details are available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/latest-business-news-and-events/>

Business grants worth up to £3,000 per month have been announced for businesses required to close in England due to local or national restrictions. Details of the scheme have just been released by central government and the District Council is waiting to hear how much funding it is being allocated. Please direct business grant queries to

[openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk)

### **4. Green Homes Grant Scheme**

Government funding is now available to make homes more energy efficient, helping homeowners do their bit to move to net zero carbon by 2050 while saving money on household bills.

The grant could help the cost from two thirds to full cost of improvements, from £5000 to £10,000 depending on your circumstances. Find out more if you are eligible at

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/sustainable-living/funding-for-household-energy-saving-measures/> The scheme closes on 31 March 2021.

### **5. Green electric waste vehicle**

South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City have taken delivery of their very first all-electric bin lorry. The lorry is the first all-electric addition to the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service – a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils. The Dennis Eagle ‘eCollect’ is now being used to collect residents’ recycling. It is the Council's first electric bin lorry and marks the start of a drive to replace all the waste service’s 55 collection lorries with electric or hydrogen vehicles as their existing trucks come to the end of their working lives.

The new vehicle has cost around £400,000. While this is more than a traditional diesel bin collection lorry, the Councils expect the whole-life cost to be the same or less than a diesel vehicle due to reduced servicing, fuel and general running costs.

Note – Green Bin collections will carry on as usual during Lockdown

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